



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 20

January Session, 2005

House Bill No. 6675

House of Representatives, March 8, 2005

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO EDUCATION GRANT STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 10-76f of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2005*):

4 (h) "Net cost of special education" means the result obtained by
5 subtracting from the expenditures made by a claimant board for
6 special education personnel, equipment, materials, tuition,
7 transportation, rent and consultant services, (1) the total amount of any
8 funds from other state or federal grants, private grants or special
9 education tuition received by [it] the board in such year and used to
10 implement special education programs approved pursuant to said
11 sections, (2) the total amount of [the costs of special education for
12 which] any funds from Medicaid payments [are] received by [it] the
13 board in such year pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-76d, and (3)

14 expenditures for special education provided to children requiring [it]
15 special education who are described in subparagraph (B) of
16 subdivision (5) of section 10-76a.

17 Sec. 2. Subdivisions (15) and (16) of section 10-262f of the general
18 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
19 (*Effective from passage*):

20 (15) "Mastery percentage" of a town for any examination year
21 means, using the mastery test data of record for the examination year,
22 the number obtained by dividing (A) the total number of valid tests
23 with scores below the state-wide standard for remedial assistance as
24 determined by the Department of Education in each subject of the
25 examinations pursuant to [subsections (a) and (b)] subdivisions (1) and
26 (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-14n taken by resident students, by (B)
27 the total number of such valid tests taken by such students.

28 (16) "Mastery test data of record" for any examination year means
29 the data of record on the April thirtieth subsequent to the
30 administration of the examinations pursuant to [subsections (a) and
31 (b)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-14n, except
32 that [for the examination years prior to July 1, 1988, the date of the data
33 of record shall be April 30, 1988, and provided beginning with the
34 administration of such examinations during the 1988-1989 school year,
35 and for each such administration thereafter,] school districts may, not
36 later than the March first following the administration of an
37 examination, file a request with the Department of Education for an
38 adjustment of the mastery test data from such examination.

39 Sec. 3. Subdivision (31) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
41 *passage*):

42 (31) "Mastery goal improvement count" means the product of (A)
43 the difference between the percentage of state-wide mastery
44 examination scores, pursuant to [subsections (a) and (b)] subdivisions
45 (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-14n, at or above the mastery

46 goal level for the most recently completed school year and the
47 percentage of such scores for the prior school year and (B) the resident
48 students of the town, or zero, whichever is greater.

49 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-262l of the general statutes is
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
51 *passage*):

52 (a) Each local and regional board of education, within available
53 appropriations, shall be eligible to receive a state grant of funds as a
54 reward for demonstrating improvement in district-wide student
55 achievement on the state-wide mastery examinations under
56 [subsections (a) and (b)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of
57 section 10-14n. Each local and regional board of education shall receive
58 a proportional share of the amount appropriated for purposes of this
59 section based upon the improvement in its mastery goal improvement
60 count, as defined in subdivision (31) of section 10-262f, as amended by
61 this act. The minimum grant for each eligible town shall be five
62 hundred dollars. Each local and regional board of education shall
63 expend grant funds pursuant to this section on behalf of its schools in a
64 manner consistent with each school's relative contribution to the level
65 of mastery goal achievement within the district.

66 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
67 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
68 *passage*):

69 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
70 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
71 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for
72 eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school
73 or a former priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this
74 subsection, [or] (B) in a town ranked one to twenty-eight when all
75 towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as
76 defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is
77 not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, or (C) in a
78 town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this

79 subdivision, as provided for in said subdivision (2). A town in which
80 [such] a priority school is located, [or] a regional school readiness
81 council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in
82 which such a school is located or a town described in subparagraph (B)
83 of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an amount not to
84 exceed one hundred seven thousand dollars per priority school or
85 town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an
86 applicant's designation as having a priority school or being a town
87 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of
88 application. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
89 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
90 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the
91 school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a
92 plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure
93 of such grant funds to the Department of Education. In awarding
94 grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall give
95 preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness
96 councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant in
97 excess of one hundred seven thousand dollars to towns with two or
98 more priority schools in such district. A town or regional school
99 readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use
100 the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of
101 accredited school readiness programs.

102 (2) (A) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, [2004] 2005,
103 if a town received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
104 [for a priority school] and is no longer eligible to receive such a grant,
105 [for such school,] the town may receive a phase-out grant for each of
106 the three fiscal years following the fiscal year such town received its
107 final grant [for such school] pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
108 subsection.

109 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
110 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
111 received its final [priority school grant for such school] grant pursuant
112 to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed

113 seventy-five per cent of the grant amount such town received [for such
 114 school] for the town or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
 115 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the second fiscal year
 116 following the fiscal year such town received its final [priority school
 117 grant for such school] grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
 118 subsection, in an amount that does not exceed fifty per cent of the
 119 grant amount such town received [for such school] for the town or
 120 school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
 121 subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following the fiscal year such
 122 town received its final [priority school grant for such school] grant
 123 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does
 124 not exceed twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town
 125 received [for such school] for the town or school's final year of
 126 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-76f(h)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-262f(15) and (16)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-262f(31)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-262l(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10-16p(d)

ED *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes technical and clarifying changes to statute and thus has no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6675

**AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO EDUCATION
GRANT STATUTES****SUMMARY:**

A 2004 act extended the school readiness competitive grant program to towns that are among the 28 poorest in the state, but were not already considered priority school districts. This bill extends to these districts the existing phase-out provisions that apply if districts become ineligible for the school readiness competitive grant. In such instances, the grants are reduced incrementally over a three-year period. The bill also makes technical changes to the education statutes relating to special education, education equalization grants, improvement grants, and school readiness competitive grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the section making technical changes to the special education statutes is effective July 1, 2005.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 23 Nay 0